

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the Claims 1, 2, 16, and 26, and cancelled Claims 5, 17, 18 and 26. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed at page 7, line 12-page 8, line 7, and page 9, line 15-page 10, line 6 and the Figures 9 and 11. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected the Claims 1-12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Mohr, et al. (USP's 6,429,574; 6,437,487; and 6,664,717), stating that these patents disclose each and every element of the invention as claimed.

In reply thereto, Applicant has carefully reviewed Mohr, et al. ('574, '487, and '717), and respectfully submits that Applicant's invention is different therefrom, and Mohr'574, '487, and '717 does disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed. In particular, Applicant's invention as claimed requires a vertical insulating layer, and the vertical insulating layer not only serves to insure insulation, but also has a significant and advantageous function of preventing or reducing distortion of the electric field within the piezoelectric section body which may be caused by the vertical electrode layers. Applicant respectfully submits that none of Mohr, et al.'574, '487, and '717 discloses such a vertical insulating layer, and instead discloses a discontinuity 34. Applicant respectfully submits that this discontinuity 34 does not provide the advantageous effects of the vertical insulating layer of Applicant's invention.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Mohr, et al.'574, '487, and '717 do not disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed, and the Claims 1-4, 6-12, and 15 are not anticipated by Mohr, et al.'574, '487 or '717.

The Examiner has rejected the Claims 13, 14, and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Mohr, et al.'574, '487, or '717, stating that Mohr, et al. discloses each and every element of Applicant's invention except for showing a plurality of transducers with three parts; and it would have been obvious to have made a plurality of transducers with three parts.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Applicant's invention and Mohr, et al.'574, '487, and '717 and Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully submits that Mohr, et al.'574, '487, and '717 does not show, disclose, or suggest utilization of the vertical insulating layer. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination thereof is not Applicant's invention. Therefore,

Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims 13, 14, 16, and 19-22 are not obvious over Mohr, et al.'574, '487, or '717 taken singularly or in combination.

The Examiner has further rejected the Claims 13, 14, and 16-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Mohr, et al.'574, '487, and/or '717 in view of Barthe, et al., stating that Mohr, et al. discloses each and every element of Applicant's invention, but does not show the transducer element comprising a plurality of piezoelectric sections and a plurality of resin sections which are coupled in the X direction and in the Y direction; Barthe, et al. shows in Fig. 2 a transducer array with a plurality of elements which have dimensions in X and Y horizontal directions and which are compounded by a resin 122 in both the vertical and horizontal directions, but does not show that each of the transducers comprises three parts; and it would have been obvious to modify Mohr, et al. in view of the teachings of Barthe, et al., and it is further the Examiner's opinion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have transducers comprising three parts.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Mohr, et al.'574, '487, and '717 and Applicant's invention. Again, Applicant respectfully submits that Mohr, et al. does not show, suggest, or teach the utilization of a vertical insulating layer or the advantages of such a construction.

In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Barthe, et al., and respectfully submits that the constructional requirements of the acoustic transducer of Barthe, et al. are different from those of Mohr, et al. Accordingly, the fact that Barthe, et al. utilizes an interelement filler in the transducer thereof would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that one would utilize such an interelement filler in a transducer such as Mohr, et al.'574, '487, or '717.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that not only is the combination suggested by the Examiner not Applicant's invention, but also the combination is not suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims 13, 14, 16, 19-25, 27 and 28 are not obvious over Mohr, et al.'574, '487 and/or '717 in view of Barthe, et al.

Applicant further respectfully and retroactively requests a one-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the one-month extension of \$120.00 be charged to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered, favorably considered, and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this amendment or required by any additional requests of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,
KODA & ANDROLIA

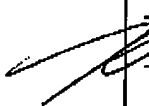
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